

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 13-15 are presently active, Claims 1-10, 12 and 16-27 are canceled without prejudice, and Claims 11 and 13 are amended. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 11, 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Cellier et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,269). Claims 12 and 15 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

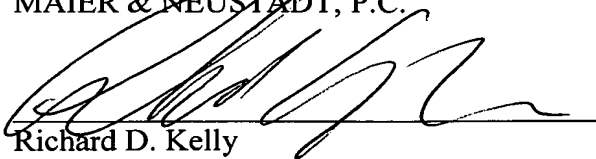
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 12 and 15. In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claim 11 is rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 12. Applicants note that the informalities identified in Claim 11 are corrected herewith.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 11 and Claims 13-15 dependent therefrom patentably define over the applied prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, it is believed that the outstanding rejection has been overcome, and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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